

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: applicants claim a continuous process for the hydroformylation of propylene comprising the steps shown in (i) and (ii) and (a) to (c). The limitation in this invention which is not taught or suggested in the prior art is the precise molar ratios of propylene stream fed into the reactor, i.e., H_2 and CO fed into the reactor and combined propylene stream containing at least 97% mole % of propylene recited in (a) with the claimed catalyst. The claimed ratios result in production increase of 3.2% or better.

Thus, the current process is neither taught nor rendered obvious by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EBENEZER SACKKEY whose telephone number is (571)272-0704. The examiner can normally be reached on 7.30-4.30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. James O. Wilson can be reached on 571-272-0661. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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